

# Wise Words from Parents

Just like every hearing loss is different, hearing loss also affects every family differently. We asked a few parents in our HLAA community to share their advice and encouragement with others. Here's what they had to say...

“As an adult with hearing loss who is also a parent to three kids, my best strategy is advocating for myself and building community within my family. When I was a brand-new mom, I worried that one day my children would learn about my deafness and think that I was not complete or had a weakness. What helped me was becoming comfortable with my hearing loss myself—telling my kids constantly that I cannot hear them, I need them to show me their face/lips or they need to get my attention first by waving or touching me before speaking. We are now learning ASL as a family, which gives my children another way to communicate with me.”

—Michelle Hu, Au.D., pediatric audiologist, Southern California  
Speaker at HLAA 2024 Convention parent-led panel



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“My daughter Giana is so different. When she got her cochlear implant, I had such high expectations that she would speak by the time she turned four—it did not happen like that. We've learned that what works for our family is to take one day, one week, one month, one year, one season at a time. We look for her strengths and we work on those. Giana is so involved in dance and sports that she sometimes surprises us!”

—Gina Petrus, New Jersey

“I'm a single mom with hearing loss raising two teenage boys. I think it's great that they both have cellphones! I'm able to text with them at a moment's notice because their plans can change in an instant. Also, they are older now and don't 'need' me as much as when they were younger, so the cellphone keeps us a bit more connected.”

—Katie Rojas, Indiana

